

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 02185 190939Z
ACTION EA-12

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FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1406
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2185

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CH TW UR US

SUB: NCNA CHARGES TAIPEI WITH PRO-SOVIET TENDENCIES

1. AN NCNA ARTICLE JULY 18, SUMMARIZED IN A VOA NEWS BROADCAST THIS MORNING, HARSHLY DENOUNCED CHIANG CHING-KUO AND HIS GOVERNMENT FOR CLINGING TO THE US AND SELLING OUT TO FOREIGN CAPITALISTS IN ORDER TO "DISRUPT THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PRC AND THE US. THE ARTICLE ALSO CHARGES THAT "CHIANG CHING-KUO HAS THE TAIWAN PRESS COME OUT FROM TIME TO TIME WITH TALK ABOUT 'UNITING WITH THE RUSSIANS '". THE ARTICLE CITES BOTH CENTRAL DAILY NEWS AND CHINA NEWS FOR HAVING CARRIED SOVIET-INSPIRED ANTI-PRC ARTICLES AND HAVING HINTED AT A POSSIBLE TURN TOWARD THE SOVIETS.

2. THE MAJOR PORTION OF THE NCNA ARTICLE IS TAKEN
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PAGE 02 PEKING 02185 190939Z

UP WITH DETAILING TAIWAN'S DANGEROUS RELIANCE ON FOREIGN ECONOMIC TIES, PARTICULARLY WITH THE UNITED STATES. THS IS AN OLD THEME OF PRC MEDIA, ALTHOUGH IT HAS BEEN RARELY SEEN IN RECENT MONTHS. DISCUSSION OF TAIWAN'S SOVIET OPTION, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS EXTREMELY UNUSUAL. INDEED, THIS ARTICLE IS THE FIRST ONE IN USLO'S RECENT MEMORY WHICH

HAS BROACHED THE SENSITIVE SUBJECT.

3. IT IS DIFFICULT TO ESCAPE THE CONCLUSION THAT THE NCNA ARTICLE WAS PROMPTED BY CONGRESSMAN WOLFF'S HONG KONG PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 15, IN WHICH HE STATED (1) THAT PRC LEADERS HAD DROPPED ALL THEIR HARSH RHETORIC ABOUT THE KMT AND WOULD NOT RULE OUT FUTURE COOPERATION WITH THEM, AND (2) THAT THE CHINESE HAD EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT TAIPEI WOULD TURN TO THE SOVIETS IN CASE OF US-PRC NORMALIZATION. THE ARTICLE SEEMS DESIGNED TO DEMONSTRATE ON THE CONTRARY THAT PEKING IS NOT SOFT ON THE KMT, AND THAT THE DANGER OF A MOVE TOWARD THE SOVIETS EXISTS (ALTHOUGH IT ALSO NOTES THAT OPPOSITION TO COLLUSION WITH THE SOVIETS EXISTS WITHIN CHIANG'S OWN ENTourage).

4. THE NCNA ARTICLE HAS NOT (OR NOT YET) BEEN CARRIED IN EITHER PEOPLE'S DAILY OR PEKING RADIO, SO IT APPEARS DIRECTED AT A FOREIGN AUDIENCE. THE CHINESE ARE THUS WARNING AMERICANS AND OTHERS THAT TAIPEI IS TRYING TO MANIPULATE AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY AGAINST US INTERESTS AND IS THEN CAPABLE OF TURNING TO THE US'S MAJOR OPPONENT IN ORDER TO SAFEGUARD KMT RULE OVER TAIWAN. THE NCNA ARTICLE ALSO APPEARS TO DEMONSTRATE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PEKING 02185 190939Z

WHAT PRC LEADERS ARE WILLING TO SAY PRIVATELY TO VISITING AMERICANS, AS REPORTED BY CONGRESSMAN WOLFF, AND WHAT PEKING IS PREPARED TO SAY PUBLICLY TO THE WORLD ON THE SUBJECT OF THE ROC AND ITS LEADERS.

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